



Vital Records

Health Statistics

Health Statistics performs the following duties on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals, Office of Public Health (DHH/OPH):

- Compiles and analyzes state vital-event data (i.e., births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, divorces, and abortions).
- Prepares vital-event data files for dissemination. Reviews data file outputs to ensure data quality, accuracy and reliability.
- Distributes customized data-analysis results to other programs within DHH, other state/local/federal agencies, universities, private/non-profit organizations, and the general public, among other clients.
- Publishes annual reports on public-health and vital-statistics data, including the *Louisiana Vital Statistics Report*, the *Louisiana Health Report Card*, the *Louisiana - Health at a Glance* poster, and the *Louisiana Vital Statistics at a Glance* Fact Card.

Health Statistics staff provide the DHH/OPH Center for Records & Statistics valuable expertise in the areas of epidemiology, medicine, statistics, and data entry.

Better Health

The vital-event data Health Statistics collects and disseminates are statewide and, therefore, meant to serve the entire population of Louisiana, with special attention towards the following subgroups of concern: blacks, Hispanics, the elderly, and persons of low socioeconomic status.

Health Statistics maintains viable relationships with the following:

- Other offices and programs within DHH including, but not limited to the Office of the Secretary, the State Health Officer, the State Epidemiologist Medicare/Medicaid, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), Maternal and Child Health, Genetics, Immunization, Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR), the Child Death Review Board, and Injury Research and Prevention.

- Other state/federal/local government agencies including, but not limited to, the Governor's Office, the State Legislature, the Louisiana Tumor Registry, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the United States Census Bureau, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality.

Health Statistics provides state health-status indicators and analyses for use in health-program planning and evaluation; for monitoring health problems that may occur in Louisiana; to evaluate Louisiana's progress toward Healthy People 2010 health goals; and to support health-research projects in conjunction with educational, private, public, and community-based agencies. Vital-event databases are compiled and analyzed with the following goals in mind:

- Describe current status and longitudinal trends in Louisiana vital events and healthcare utilization.
- Identify geographic areas and populations in need of improved access to healthcare, health education, and other public health interventions.
- Provide accurate, informative, timely, easily accessible data and statistics to all users investigating vital-event patterns and healthcare utilization in Louisiana.

Summary of Selected Program Activities for 2008:

- Received 211 requests for vital-event data.
- Received and processed over 170,000 vital records.